

(c) The Government of India has been announcing Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of raw jute annually. Jute Corporation of India Ltd. is official agency to procure raw jute under MSP from the growers. Apart from its own purchase centres, Cooperatives are also involved in MSP operations. During the year 2000-2001, 4.62 lakh bales of raw jute were procured by JCI and Cooperatives under MSP operations.

Forming a corporation for running NTC mills in Kerala

3616. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHRANJAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form a corporation for running, reviving and modernising the NTC mills in Kerala; and

(b) if not, how Government propose to revive NTC mills in Kerala;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) As per Govt's approach, all revivable mills will be revived through NTC(HC) and the concerned NTC Subsidiary, subject to the approval of BIFR.

Problems of the handloom sector

3617. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems in the handloom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to resolve these problems;

(d) whether the matter was discussed in the last State Textile Ministers Conference held at New Delhi; and

(e) if so, the opinion expressed by various States in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) In order to ensure sustainable livelihood and an improved standard of living for weavers the Union Government has been implementing various developmental schemes for the welfare of handloom weavers which include Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Insurance Scheme, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Development of Exportable products and their Marketing Scheme, Decentralised training of Weavers Scheme and Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme etc. In order to make handloom sector more competitive, the Government of India has set up 'National Centre for Textile Design' which provides online design and production assistance with colour trends prevailing in the International market.

(d) and (e) Issues relating to the sector and its weavers were discussed at the recent State Textile Ministers Conference held in New Delhi and several recommendations were made by States for the further development of the handloom sector and the welfare of weavers.

Development of the handicraft section in the country

3618. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the innovative steps taken by Government to develop the handicraft sector of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government have extended any special assistance to the Tamil Nadu Government in improving the handicraft industry for the past three years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The innovative, steps taken by the Government to develop the handicrafts sector of the country include: setting up of urban haats; setting up of